



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/725,526

12/03/2003

Raymond K. Orr

79115-26 /pw

3203

7590 02/11/2009
SMART & BIGGAR
P.O. Box 2999, Station D
900-55 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5Y6
CANADA

EXAMINER

RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/725,526	Applicant(s) ORR ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL RUTLAND WALLIS	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-11,13-16 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-11 and 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,10,11 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 August 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/23/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 15 are objected to because the claim fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.75(d)(i), reproduced in relevant part below.

- (i) Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rehm et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,244)

With respect to claims 1, 4 Rehm a distributed power supply arrangement comprising a plurality of power sources (12, 14 and 16) for supplying power to a plurality of loads via a power distribution network, the power sources and the loads (connected to bus 22, col. 1 lines 15-25) being connected to the power distribution network whereby the power sources are coupled to the loads via respective resistances (see resistive connections from the utility to sources 26 28 and 30) lines of the power distribution network, the arrangement further comprising one voltage sensor (44) for sensing power supply voltage at one point in the power distribution network, wherein each of the power sources is responsive to the sensed power supply voltage sensed by the one voltage sensor for supplying a regulated current (via item 70) to the power distribution network.

With respect to claims 9 and 15-16 Rehm teaches a method of regulating voltage in a power distribution network (Fig. 1) including a plurality of power sources (12, 14 and 16) for supplying power to a plurality of loads (connected to bus 22, col. 1 lines 15-25), comprising the steps of: sensing voltage (44) of the supplied power at one point in the

Art Unit: 2836

power distribution network; and regulating (via item 70) current supplied by each of the plurality of power sources to the power distribution network in dependence (col. 6 lines 10-25) upon the sensed voltage sensed at each of the one point in the power distribution network.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rehm et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,244) in view of Hayward et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,345)

With respect to claims 6-7 and 13-14 Rehm teaches the device of claim 9 but does not teach the power distribution network comprises power and ground planes of a circuit card on which the loads are provided. Hayward teaches plural power circuits and ground plane circuitry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in that art at the time of the invention modify Rehm to implement the system on claim 9 on a circuit card in order to use the system in a backplane arrangement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3, 10-11 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Rehm teaches the distributed power supply arrangement of claims 1, 9 and 15, however does not further teach a plurality of said voltage sensors for sensing power supply voltages at a plurality of points in the power distribution network, whereby each of the power sources is responsive to the power supply voltages sensed at the plurality of points in the power distribution network. At least this further limitation is not taught or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW

/Albert W Paladini/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2836

2/6/09